

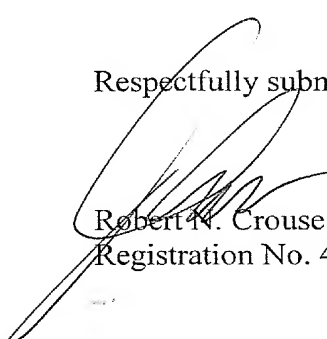
REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the detailed examination evidenced by the Final Official Action mailed October 12, 2006, including the allowance of Claims 15-19 and 29-37. *Official Final Action, page 5.* In response, Applicant has cancelled rejected Claims 1-13 and 20-28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant notes that this amendment is being made to advance the present matter to allowance and is not an admission that the rejected claims are unpatentable over the cited references (singularly or in combination).

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's courtesy in a telephone interview initiated by Applicant's representative on March 12, 2007, wherein the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed the status of the PTO Form 1449 submitted on October 25, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the IDS including the PTO Form 1449 submitted on October 25, 2006, would be considered upon submission of the present Amendment After Final.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the PTO Form 1449 submitted on October 25, 2006, a notice of allowance in due course. If any informal matters arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.


Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 12, 2007.

Signature: 

Sheena Donnelly